THE

British Packet,

AND

ARGENTINE NEWS.

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No. 96.] BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 1828. [Vol. 2.

BUENOS AYRES.

The doubts which have so long prevailed relative to the intentions of Don Fructuoso Rivera, have been agreeably relieved by the following despatches published by government on the 3d inst.

VIVA LA PATRIA! IMPORTANT INTELLIGENCE.

Capture of the seven towns of Los Misiones Orientales by the National force, under the command of

BRIGADIER D. FRUCTUOSO RIVERA.

Haun Costa de Ibicui, May 16th, 1828.

Having promised your excellency in my former communications (1) a detail of the events which have taken place in this province of Misiones since the troops of the Republic have entered it, I have now the pleasure of fulfilling this promise, and of announcing to your Excellency that on the 21st ult. we arrived on the banks of this majestic river, and observing upon the opposite side a strong detachment of the enemy who defended the pass, I ordered captain D. Felipe Cabellero to detach 80 men with their sabres secured to their waists, and pistols tied on their heads, to swim across the river, being covered by Corporal Manuel Gallego, who, with three soldiers in a small canoe, had passed the river; we opened fire, and the Republican arms were quickly covered with glory. For the particulars of this event, I refer your Excellency to the despatch No. 1. After this success, I passed over with the rest of the troops, and continued my march, sending forward at night Capt. D. Manuel Antonio Iglesias, accompanied by Lieut. D. Dionisio Maidana, of the company of guides, with a small party, to the estancia of Escobar, where I had heard there was a party of the enemy's scouts: an encounter took place, the details of which are given in despatch No. 2. The following day I divided my troops into three divisions: the first, commanded by Capt. Cabellero, took the road to San Francisco; the second, under Major Rivera, to San Borja, and the third, under my command, that of La Sierra. The operations of the first and second division are detailed in despatches No. 3 and 4; the third has compelled 160 men who were in the Sierra to surrender, taking from them 2 carts belonging to the government with arms, ammunition, and some silver, 600 horses, cattle, &c. I then marched, with all possible speed to pursue the Colonel Governor of the Province, whom, I was informed, had retreated by the Sierra de San Martin, with 300 men, but having arrived at La Cruz Alta, after marching 5 days and nights, the enemy still one day's march ahead of me, and the scarcity of provisions such that we were obliged to kill horses to sustain the troops, added to which, the number of individuals that came over to us from the retreating party, I was obliged to retrogade, bringing with me the Imperial Standard taken from the enemy, which I send to your Excellency by my Adjutant Captain José Augusto Posolo; (2) he will inform you of every particular which has occurred. The conduct of the troops under my command has been most exemplary; I recommend them to your Excellency's notice, believing them worthy of your consideration;—neither hunger, danger, nor the innumerable fatigues they have endured, could damp their ardour, constancy and patriotism; the conduct of the Indians, Minnanos and Charrucas, and their caciques, Polidorio and Juan Pedro, are not less worthy the notice of your Excellency—they marched with the division commanded by Capt. D. Juan Francisco Fernandez.

I will not fail to inform your Excellency of any other occurrence that may take place in this quarter. Congratulating your Excellency upon this triumph, and repeating the assurance of my particular devotion and esteem, I remain, &c. &c FRUCTUOSO RIVERA.

To His Excellency, the Sr. Governor, charged with the direction of the war, D. Manuel Dorrego.

The despatch No. 1, is dated 21st April, from Captain Cabellero, and relates his having defeated a party of the enemy, the commandant and 19 soldiers killed, and 33 prisoners; the rest escaped from the goodness of their horses; the National division had only one man slightly wounded by a contusion. The despatch No. 2, from Capt. M. A. Iglesias, states, that the party of scouts which he was sent to attack, precipitately fled, having 3 men killed; they left behind them swords, horses, &c. Of the National troops, Lieut. D. Dionisio Maidana was killed, and his loss is greatly deplored. Despatch No. 3, dated San Francisco, 26th April, from Capt. Cabellero, states, that the flight of the enemy was so rapid that he could not come up with them; the advantages were, however, the same, for they all dispersed, and came over to the National troops, who likewise captured 500 horses.

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(1) The Government have not received them.

(2) We understand the Government has sent this Standard to be placed in the Cathedral.

Despatch No. 4, dated Costa de Camacuan, April 24, 1828, from Major Bernabé Rivera, observes that the necessary care of artillery, carts, ammunition, horses, &c. which he had taken from the enemy prevented his following them up; that they are retiring by forced marches by the Sierra de San Martin, and the desertion of their troops so great, that although 300 men still remained, it was thought that in a few days they would all disperse. A further despatch notices, that Lieut. Col. F. J. Santi has sent a few soldiers and some arms to the division of Major Bernabé Rivera.

Under date of May 16, Major B. Rivera states the occupation of the town of San Borja by the Republican troops, that they had taken 2 pieces of cannon, arms, ammunition, stores, &c. 243 men have presented themselves, wishing to be enrolled in the Republican army; many of them are "Orientalists," but the greater part are natives of the Misiones. 13 officers of different grades, 7 serjeants, 15 corporals, and 109 soldiers, who deserted in the shameful flight of Col. Alencastre, have presented themselves; they have been disarmed, and sent to their homes; all the horses of the government which were at pasture have been taken, but not one belonging to the inhabitants.

A considerable number of individuals, the most respectable and wealthy in the Province, have requested General Rivera to establish a government, similar to that adopted in the other portions of the Argentine Republic; they make the most generous offers of money, cattle, and all sort of supplies, to sustain the system of independence. On the news of the good treatment which the prisoners received, the Governor was deserted by the armed inhabitants who had accompanied him; General Rivera had taken the precaution to disarm them, leaving them at liberty, but subject to the disposal of government. The country was covered with cattle, and the General was anxiously expecting the arrival of Governor Lopez, with the Santa Fé division, to combine new operations, which will, doubtless, prove highly beneficial to the Republic. Before the Brazilian governor retired, he burned in San Borja 2 schooners, a balandra, an armed launch, and all the timber and marine stores; in one of the carts belonging to merchants who fled with the governor, was found 5500 patacones, and nearly 600 dollars in copper money; General Rivera disposed of it as follows: 8 dollars to each soldier, 9 to each corporal, and 10 to each serjeant; the officers voluntarily ceded their share of the booty, the troops being in greater need of it.

Major B. Rivera says, in a private letter, (after he had closed his despatches) that Lieut. Col. D N. Silva, Administrador of the Province, had presented himself to him.

The Packet Lady Wellington has not brought intelligence from Europe more recent than what the arrival of the schr. Federal enabled us to communicate in our last number. The private letters from Rio Janeiro, and the acrimonious language of the journals of that city, breathe nothing but war,—but in this city rumours of peace prevail; it is said that deputies have been appointed to proceed to Rio Janeiro; the markets have felt the effects of these reports: the detention of the Lady Wellington packet at Rio Janeiro for six days leads to the opinion that something decisive is about to take place. The affairs of Portugal may have occasioned a change in the opinions of the Cabinet of Rio Janeiro. The Emperor opened the Legislative Assembly on the 3d of May last;—the following is an extract from the Speech, made on that occasion.

"I have negotiations pending with the Government of the Republic of Buenos Ayres, establishing the basis of a just and decorous convention, such as the national honour and the dignity of my Imperial crown demand. If this Republic refuses to acquiesce in the highly liberal and generous propositions which proclaim to all the world the good faith and moderation of the Imperial government, whatever may be the regret of my Imperial heart, it will be necessary to continue hostilities, and to continue them with redoubled energy,—this is my immutable resolution. I rely upon the general assembly for the most firm and loyal co-operation in sustaining the national honour and glory.

Extract of a letter from Rio Janeiro, dated 13th May, 1828.

"If Buenos Ayres does not agree to proposals sent by the Forte frigate and Kingfisher packet, the war is to be carried on with redoubled energy. The Marquis of Quebuz has told me, and repeated it often, that the government will never give up Monte Video. A German regiment arrived yesterday from Pernambuco; they, with another regiment of 1000 men, are to sail for St. Catherines in a month or two, and I am informed more men will go from the northern ports, and two regiments of cavalry from Minas and St. Pauls. Grenfell has the corvette Maria Isabel, and is going to command the squadron off Buenos Ayres. Exchange upon London has declined to 31d. per milrea; doubloons 24$000; dollars 1700 each; patacones 52 per ct. prem. Produce, no alteration."

Extract of a letter from Monte Video, dated May 20, 1828.

"I have the melancholy task of informing you of the death of Lieut. Robert H. Ford, prisoner of war, and late of the National brig of war Independence,—he died on the 12th inst. after a long illness; Mr Noble sent a request to the Governor for permission to inter the body with the honours of war, as is customary in all civilized nations; the request was refused, upon the plea that the deceased, at the time of his death, was a prisoner. All the English and American vessels in the harbour hoisted their colours half mast; minute guns were fired by the American brig Rio, captain Odam. Poor Ford was placed in his coffin in full uniform, and the procession proceeded from the hospital at 4 o'clock; it was attended by a long train of Americans and Englishmen, to the English burial ground, distant about one mile from the gates of this fortress; the funeral service was read by Mr. Zimmerman.

June 1.—Wind N. Nothing arrived or sailed.

2.—Wind N., in the afternoon it changed to W. N. W. with rain. The schooners of war Uruguay, Eleventh June, Thirtieth June; gun boats No. 12 and 13, and zumaca Ninfa Argentina with part of the troops of the Cordova contingent, which had put back from contrary winds, sailed for the Banda Oriental and the river Uruguay.

A salute was fired this afternoon from the Fort, and from the National vessels, in consequence of the successes gained by General Fructuoso Rivera, in the Misiones.

Sailed at night from three-fathom hole, the National schooner-brig of war Federal, (late Sin Par,) Commodore Bynon, Captain John King, and schooner of war Sarandi, Captain Chambers, on a cruise. These two vessels are in excellent condition, well manned and officered.

3.—Wind S. W. From 30 to 35 sail of small craft which had been wind bound for the last ten days, came out of the Boca this morning and sailed under convoy to the northward.

Sailed at night, American brig Thomas Morris, Breck, for a port in Europe.

4.—Wind W. S. W. Blockading squadron not in sight. Several small craft sailed for the Parana.

5.—Wind S. The National vessels of war Fede-ral and Sarandi passed Point Indio before day break on the morning of 3d instant, and did not see any Brazilian vessels in their passage down. They sailed from three fathom hole at 7 o'clock P. M. on 2d instant. The pilot returned this day.

Sailed, gun boat No. 7 for Las Vacas.

6.—Wind N. E. The pilot of the American brig Thomas Morris arrived this morning, and reports that the said brig sailed from the three fathom hole at 6 o'clock, P. M. on the 3d, and was off Point Indio at 3 o'clock, A. M. on 4th inst. going 10 knots without studding sails. Saw 7 Brazilian vessels in the passage down, and was close to one of them off Colonia. At day-break on 4th, the pilot when returning in his boat, saw several sail of vessels under sail on this side of Point Indio.

The Brazilian government did not give any pecuniary reward to those who were instrumental in taking the British brig Daphne into Rio Janeiro, after her capture by the privateer Libertador Bolivar. The British Admiral, it is said, gave a letter, recommending them to the consideration of Lloyd's.

The packet Osborn, from Buenos Ayres 5th December 1827, Monte Video 7th, and Rio Janeiro 25th, arrived at Falmouth 24th February. The Rinaldo do. from B. Ayres 17th Decr., M. Video 21st, and Rio 10th January, arrived at Falmouth 9th March. The Sphynx do. from B. Ayres 4th January, M. Video 10th, and Rio Janeiro 22d, arrived at Falmouth 12th March.

To the Editor of the British Packet.

SIR,—I send you a copy of a part of a letter I sent to the Governor 20 days previous to my escape, which I beg you will insert in your paper. I find that you are either afraid, or cannot get the government's leave to publish my two last letters, but I shall not fail to have them printed in the Monte Video Gazette ; and also the cruel treatment of the men and officers by the Buenos Ayrean government and Capt. Bynon, who has forever disgraced his rank, name and country which he has espoused.

The letter I forwarded to the Governor remained unanswered, and having thus resigned my parole, I should not have done my duty to the government I serve, had I not attempted escape, and I hope that my friends will consider the case in the same light. I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

BOSVILLE JOHN WILSON.

(COPY.)

" After having requested leave to go to an estancia ; my letter which I had the honor to send your Excellency, on the 14th or 16th of last February, was never answered, in which letter I renounced my parole, in consequence of the infringement of my agreement on the part of the Commissary at Chascomus, in obliging me to present myself to him twice a day, against all faith and reason, as a prisoner on parole is *free.* I should have written to your Excellency again on the subject, had it not been for the talk of peace ; and believing that I ought to resign my parole twice, I now take this opportunity to declare that I shall not, if my request is not granted, consider myself any longer on parole, preferring the prisons of Buenos Ayres to a longer residence in Chascomus, and where (to be candid with your Excellency,) I find that I can support myself no longer." I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

Mr Wilson (and we do not envy him) will doubtless get reward and promotion from the Emperor, to whom he seems such a devoted servant. Every communication received from him, we have invariably published in the Packet, except one letter, and mercy to the writer forbad its insertion : it was written in language too violent and gross even for the most bigotted Imperialist. The remark relative to our fear of the government is unworthy replication.

To the Editor of the British Packet.

MR. EDITOR, The speech of Lord Strangford in the House of Lords, on the 20th of March last, on South American affairs, having excited considerable indignation amongst many of our countrymen in this city, perhaps the following observations may tend, in some degree, to explain the warmth which his Lordship evinced upon that occasion.

The father of the present Lord Strangford, having been convicted of receiving a bribe of two hundred pounds, which influenced his vote in a certain cause tried before the Irish House of Lords, was degraded from his titles and honours, and either banished the country, or to avoid the disgrace and contempt into which he had fallen, retired to Portugal, where he ended his days ; at his death his son was restored to his rank and estate. Having consequently passed much of the earlier part of his life amongst the Portuguese, and having been Minister to the court of Portugal, his Lordship is strongly prejudiced in favour of that people, and it would appear has even imbibed the natural antipathy which exists between the Portuguese and Spaniards, and their descendants. To what other cause can be attributed the gratuitous insults which he has indiscriminately bestowed upon all the American states of Spanish origin. At a subsequent period, when he resided in Brazil, as Ambassador from Great Britain, such was the partiality he evinced for those of the former nation, that Englishmen at that time resident in Rio Janeiro, have been heard to say that he was more a Portuguese than an Englishman ; the renewal of his old acquaintance, and the formation of new friendships at this period, was a natural consequence, perhaps, a duty of his ministry, and would, of course, tend to strengthen his early prepossessions. It is through the partial medium of these friends, that his Lordship, no doubt, has received the intelligence which was intended to mislead the British public ; and he has thought proper to produce before the House of Lords, as facts, the studied exaggerations of men who, being parties in the transactions they relate, must necessarily be infinitely interested in painting every thing in the most unfavourable colours for their enemies. Had his Lordship deigned to inquire of any respectable Englishman resident in Brazil, who, with better opportunities of knowing the facts, had no interest in misrepresenting them, he would have learned how highly exaggerated is his statement in many parts, and how utterly false in others : possessed of such correct information, he would have avoided the silly position (to give it the tenderest name,) in which he must be placed when it is discovered by the august body of which he is a member, that he has been the dupe of the Brazilian Ministry. The conduct of his Lordship would have been more suitable to the Brazilian Envoy : indeed, the violence which he expresses, appears more like the effect of a strong personal feeling on the question, than the candour and dignified moderation which ought to be observed by a British nobleman ;—it is that of a partizan.

His Lordship's dislike to the new states of America, appears to extend to those of his countrymen who are engaged in trading with them, whose interests he would sacrifice by one sweeping decree of his unerring judgment, to the happy few who have acquired a title to his favour by their connection with Brazil ; as he boldly pronounces the trade of all that was once Spanish America to be nothing in comparison with that of the favoured Empire, and consequently unworthy the attention of Great Britain. Those who have not the same motives for partiality as his Lordship, may, notwithstanding, be of a different opinion ; they may think that the consumption of our manufactures by sixteen millions of people ought to be proportionately greater than that of three millions,—and when they recollect that a considerable part of the produce of Brazil clashes with that of their own East and West India colonies, far from subscribing to his opinions, they may be inclined to question not only the correctness of his calculations, but the soundness of his understanding.

If you think the above observations worthy a place in *The British Packet*, by inserting them you will oblige your constant reader,

VERITAS.

To the Editor of the British Packet.

SIR,

The mystery in which the negotiations for peace are enveloped, is a source of the most painful anxiety to every one engaged in commercial pursuits, but to none more so than to the British residents in this city, who have so deep a stake in the question; and it seems to argue something very like indifference on the part of our government Agents here, that they have hitherto taken no steps to remove, or allay, that anxiety.

By the Wellington packet letters of undoubted respectability have been received from Rio Janeiro, in which it is stated. on the authority of Mr. Gordon, H M's. Minister at that court, that the treaty had been entirely broken off; while it is stated here by those who have the best means of obtaining information from the local government, that negotiations are not only still going on, but that they are likely to lead to an immediate peace.—The British Embassy in Buenos Ayres, notwithstanding, preserve the strictest silence on the subject, and leave the trade in the most anxious and ruinous uncertainty. They cannot but be aware of the injury that must be occasioned to their countrymen, by keeping them in suspense, on a subject of such vital importance to their interests, while their neighbours contrive to get full information of all that is going on; and still less can the gentlemen of the Embassy be ignorant of the impossibility to adopt the diplomatic forms of European Courts in a country like this, and under circumstances like the present If, indeed, it were possible to carry on the negotiations with perfect secrecy on both sides, it would, no doubt be better for all parties to do so,—but it is well known that every step in the negotiations is immediately communicated by one party to their friends, through whom it generally finds its way to the British trade after its effect has been experienced in the market, and their interests have been sacrificed to the better information of their neighbours Under such disadvantages, very injurious consequences are daily experienced, and if the negotiations last much longer, on the present system, however favorably they may terminate, they are likely to give a finishing blow to the little that remains of the enormous amount of British property that existed in the country at the commencement of this disastrous war.

The circumstance alone of the Exchange on London having, within the last three months, varied from 12d. to 24d. speaks volumes on the advantage, which any class in the community, possessing prior information, must have over those who are less fortunate in their political relations, and would render any farther elucidation of that point quite superfluous.

Knowing all these circumstances, as the British Embassy must do, I cannot think they would refuse information, if it were applied for in the name of the body at large; and I am, therefore, inclined to think that the blame must rest with the British Committee, which, as it is appointed to watch over the general interests of the trade, ought to have made a proper application for such information as would place their countrymen on a footing with the native merchants; and I would recommend that a general meeting be held immediately, to take into consideration the propriety of addressing Lord Ponsonby on the subject.

A BRITISH RESIDENT.

Buenos Ayres, June 5th, 1828.

We happen to know, that in answer to an application made to the Committee on the subject to which the foregoing letter alludes, it was stated that they had been given to understand by His Majesty's Consul General, that no information could be afforded them at present.

THEATRE.

"La Cerentola," albeit no favorite in London, (our countrymen prefer "deep and melancholy strains,") is, from its fanciful and pleasing harmony, very attractive here. It was performed on 23d ult. to a brilliant audience. Doña Angelita sung divinely, especially in the concluding 'Aria,' and was fervently applauded. Vacani was out of temper: the periodicals of the day have pointedly commented upon this. Some merriment was excited in the course of the evening by marked applause from the pit, bestowed upon Vera as *Don Magnifico*, (alluding to a well-known political character): Vera bowed, and displayed a new hat and plumes, which the wits immediately named the '*Diablo Rosado*" hat.

On 24th, the comedy "El Desden con el Desden," in which Doña Trinidad sported a new hat or bonnet of the very first 'ton.'

On 25th a tragedy called "Guatimoc y Guatimocin." The Governor was in his box, attended by the Ministers of War and Finance, Colonel Iriarte, Lieutenant Colonels Artayeta and Alvarez, and Don Manuel Aguirre.——On 26th the opera of "El Califa." The duet 'Viva l'Amor,' and its soft music, highly pleased. The Governor was again present, attended by the Minister of War, Admiral Brown, Lieutenant-Colonels Artayeta, Alvarez and Castañon, and Don José Maria Escalada. The officers were attired in very splendid uniforms.——On 27th, the play of "El Duque de Pentierre." On 28th, "Armida and Rinaldo." On 29th, "El Secreto á Voces," and "Los Novios Imperfectos."—The serenades of the lovers in the farce, and Culebras's choirsters, caused considerable mirth. Felipe David tuned his "hurdy gurdy," and imitated chanticleer with droll effect: he was encored in the song.

Rossini's opera of "Tancredi" was performed for the first time at this Theatre on Saturday evening last. Our space will not permit any lengthened remarks. The style in which it has been produced reflects the greatest credit upon this establishment: the dresses, especially those of Doña Angelita and Rosquellas, are equal in point of splendor to any that we have seen in Theatres more extended. Angelita (and to mention her and praise her seems almost a matter of course,) extorted praise even from those who cannot fancy that great musical talent should find a place in Buenos Ayres. The chorusses and processions were well arranged, and the scenery good: to Rosquellas the public are much indebted. The house was crowded in every part; many charming females were in the boxes, attired in their usual elegant costume. The Governor was in the State box, and with him some military officers and others: his Lady was in another part of the house, etiquette, we presume, not allowing them to be seated together at the Theatre, according to the comfortable practice followed by our late Sovereign, George III.

A crowd of Amateurs attended the final rehearsal of 'Tancredi' on the evening of 30th ult., and the applause was general and enthusiastic.

*** We have received a communication, in reply to Mr Josa. Waddington's letter, which appeared in our last number. Want of room prevents the insertion of it this week.

SAVING BANK.

THE office of the above institution will, in future, be opened on *Wednesdays* and *Saturdays*.

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